

QUANTUM-RESILIENT CRYPTOGRAPHY: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS AND MIGRATION BLUEPRINT FOR CLOUD ENVIRONMENTS

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CANDIDATE'S DECLARATION

I, **Saurabh Negi**, Roll No. 23/CSE/09 student of M. Tech (Computer Science and Engineering), hereby certify that the work which is being presented in the thesis entitled **“Quantum-Resilient Cryptography: Comparative Analysis and Migration Blueprint for Cloud Environments”** in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the Degree of Master of Technology in Computer Science and Engineering in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Delhi Technological University is an authentic record of my own work carried out during the period from August 2023 to Jun 2025 under the supervision of Dr. Rajesh Kumar Yadav, Associate Prof, Dept of Computer Science and Engineering. The matter presented in the thesis has not been submitted by me for the award of any other degree of this or any other Institute.

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ABSTRACT

This thesis focuses on how current cryptography performs against quantum attacks, titled "Quantum-Resilient Cryptography: A Comparative Analysis and Plan for Migration to Cloud Systems." The publication focuses on the weaknesses of traditional cryptography algorithms under Shor's and Grover's algorithms and presents some PQC alternatives such as lattice-based, code-based and hash-based solutions. A new framework, QRAM (Quantum-Resilient Architecture for Migration), is presented to help cloud systems add quantum-safe algorithms while staying secure.

To do this, analysis of classic algorithms such as RSA, ECC and AES for weaknesses is performed, simulation and assessment of Round 3 NIST PQC models is included and new hybrid models are designed. In addition, BB84, E91 and B92 are modeled to check how efficiently they detect errors and any attempts at eavesdropping. Each protocol is examined in different attack conditions, mainly concerning channel security and promises provided by information theory. Simulations confirm that QKD is a possible additional secure channel for cloud environments.

According to the findings, lattice-based systems Kyber and Dilithium provide both strong security and satisfactory performance, while QKD methods are strongly protected against eavesdropping because of quantum features. The QRAM blueprint supports practical actions for adding post-quantum security to real-life cloud environments. The study finds that by using informed algorithms, carrying out migration in steps and adding QKD solutions, cloud infrastructures will operate securely even after quantum computers exist. Researchers can work on making blockchain applications quantum-safe, improving hardware with QKD and testing its use in the cloud in real time.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

RSA	Rivest–Shamir–Adleman
ECC	Elliptic Curve Cryptography
AES	Advanced Encryption Standard
SHA	Secure Hash Algorithm
PQC	Post-Quantum Cryptography
QKD	Quantum Key Distribution
BB84	Bennett-Brassard 1984 Protocol
E91	Ekert 1991 Protocol
B92	Bennett 1992 Protocol
QBER	Quantum Bit Error Rate
NIST	National Institute of Standards and Technology
TLS	Transport Layer Security
VPN	Virtual Private Network
PKI	Public Key Infrastructure
API	Application Programming Interface
CLI	Command Line Interface
Kyber	A NIST-selected lattice-based Key Encapsulation Mechanism (KEM)
Dilithium	A NIST-selected lattice-based digital signature algorithm
SPHINCS+	Stateless Practical Hash-Based Incredibly Nice Cryptographic Signature
BIKE	Bit Flipping Key Encapsulation
CRYSTALS	Cryptographic Suite for Algebraic Lattices
SHA3	Secure Hash Algorithm 3

GCM	Galois/Counter Mode
IBM Q	IBM Quantum Experience
QRAM	Quantum-Resilient Architecture Migration
DoS	Denial of Service
CSV	Comma-Separated Values

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Overview

Because quantum computing is developing so quickly, it now represents a major threat to the security of cryptographic systems currently used in cloud settings. Older cryptographic schemes like RSA, Diffie-Hellman and elliptic curve cryptography which underpin most secure communications, have been made vulnerable to new quantum computing approaches such as Shor's algorithm. As quantum computing gets ready for use, measures to safeguard cloud computing with quantum cryptography are needed right away.

Researchers believe that RSA and elliptic-curve cryptosystems, along with similar cryptographic schemes, may be vulnerable to high-level attacks using a quantum computer. At this time, quantum computers can't realistically crack these algorithms, yet it is believed that big quantum systems will be built in the next few years. Therefore, people are now using "Y2Q" or "Q-Day" to refer to the moment when today's ways of encrypting data will stop working. There is additional pressure because cybercriminals can now intercept data today and encrypt it, keeping the encrypted data for future decryption.

Because cloud platforms are responsible for vast amounts of confidential data at all times, this risk can be very serious for them. If nothing is done about this, it could make already protected information easy to attack at a later date. A study of how both quantum computers and conventional supercomputers attempt to crack encryption algorithms indicates that post-quantum cryptography is both necessary and urgent. In addition to leaking data, quantum threats can damage the integrity and authenticity of digital transactions which might seriously harm both financial systems and the country's security. To protect customer data in the future, cloud service providers should add quantum-safe technologies proactively. Already, authorities and organizations are cooperating to work on post-quantum cryptography and standardize it according to the efforts of NIST. A complete strategy must be put in place to change over to the new cryptographic systems, covering updates in protocols, verification of software and teaching people about possible quantum attacks. There isn't much time left to prepare, so what we do now will affect the future of the internet.

Table 1. Encryption Algorithms: Classical vs. Quantum Cracking Times

Algorithm	Classical Supercomputer Time	Quantum Computer Time (Est.)	Quantum Speedup Mechanism
RSA-2048	Trillions of years	Hours (using ~20M qubits)	Shor's Algorithm (exponential speedup)
RSA-330	Factored in months (classical)	Minutes (few thousand qubits, theory)	Shor's Algorithm
ECC (256-bit)	Trillions of years	Hours (similar to RSA)	Shor's Algorithm
AES-256	Billions of years (brute force)	Quadratic speedup; AES-128 equivalent	Grover's Algorithm (quadratic speedup)
AES-128	Billions of years	Quadratic speedup; AES-64 equivalent	Grover's Algorithm
Present, Gift-64, Rectangle (SPN)	Infeasible (classical brute force)	Quantum annealing attacks demonstrated (proof-of-concept)	Quantum Annealing

The first row in Table 1 demonstrates how cryptographic algorithms perform against today's supercomputers and how they might stand up against quantum computers. It reveals how open algorithms are to being attacked by quantum computing hardware.

Key Insights :

- RSA and ECC are both weak against the Shor's algorithm which helps solve large numbers exponentially quicker than any present classical solution for this problem. A supercomputer may be able to crack a 2048-bit RSA key in a trillions of years, but a quantum computer of the right size could do so very fast.
- By using Grover's algorithm, you could speed up the process by a factor of four, so AES-256 now provides the same security as AES-128. Since the strength is largely intact, now is a good time to use bigger keys for more security in the future.
- Structured ciphers such as Present and Gift-64 which are in the SPN group, have been targeted by using quantum annealing, since they are similar to AES. Even though they are not true breaks, these results demonstrate that quantum computers might someday crack today's powerful symmetrical ciphers.

- Lately, scientists have put together quantum and classical strategies, for example using Schnorr's and QAOA, to lessen RSA security resources, though they have not yet been tried on larger encryption.

This thesis provides a complete solution for securing cloud infrastructure from quantum computing risks by checking out PQC solutions and making a structured plan to implement them. Because RSA and ECC encryption may be defeated by quantum computing, the study focuses on three new standard methods and tests their performance, security and scalability in the cloud.

The research improves on current migration strategies by suggesting a model that connects previous primitives and quantum-safe ones, cutting overhead by 22%. The heart of this model is the brand new QRAM (Quantum-Resilient Adaptive Migration) algorithm which adapts encryption methods according to what the system requests, what it has available and the levels of security it needs. Adaptive learning in QRAM ensures that the system is always adjusting for the best combination of latency, throughput and quantum quality.

Analysis of experiments proves lattice-based extractors NEV and Kyber outperform standard methods in key generation and encryption speed, while Dilithium wins in signing and verifying signatures. Researchers point out issues with multi-tenancy and the addition of cloud-native services such as KMS. Solutions to these concerns are precomputation, using specialized hardware and guided agility through policies.

With both sound theory and practical instructions, this work prepares organizations to carry out a migration plan, highlighting the need for checking risks, using hybrid crypto and collaborating with vendors. According to the findings, cloud services resistant to quantum technologies can handle data safely, without affecting their performance after quantum computers are built.

1.2. Motivation and objectives

Because of how fast quantum computing technology is expanding, the current cryptography foundations in the cloud and digital sphere are highly at risk. RSA and ECC, types of classical cryptography, now used to safeguard government messages and financial transactions, will not be able to resist quantum attacks. Experts believe that the threat is real: quantum computers could one day decrypt common security keys and cause national security and critical public infrastructure to fail.

Also, the financial sector is vulnerable, so a quantum attack on banks could frustrate financial activities, jeopardize transactions and affect many people's trust in digital trade. Because "harvest today, decrypt tomorrow" is a common approach, today's data is already exposure to attacks, even if we don't know the true content.

Cloud services which store large amounts of important data, are most exposed because they depend on public-key encryption and are connected to various services.

Consequences of a quantum attack may involve many cases of data theft, breaks in important services and significant matters of identity theft. Also, missing the shift to cybersecurity in quantum could cause organizations to run into lawsuits and lose trust among users.

With these major risks in mind—including concerns about national security, stable economies and people’s privacy—we need a strong cloud strategy to handle the move to quantum-proof cryptography. The study was started because we must act now to protect against these upcoming risks and present a thorough, ready path for organizations to secure their cloud systems ahead of the quantum era.

The following are the objectives that we intend to achieve through this thesis.

1. Conduct an overall examination of the key risks that quantum computing brings to cloud systems, primarily concerned with dangers to national security, sizable financial systems, big infrastructure and what “pulling the encryption now, cracking it later” tactics entail.
2. Assess top post-quantum cryptography (PQC) algorithms, including hash-based, lattice-based and code-based protocols, for use in the cloud by examining their security and performance in situations where security is particularly important.
3. Build a migration roadmap tailored to cloud infrastructures by dealing with unique matters, like hosting various clients, adding integration with main systems and maintaining backward compatibility, to keep confidential and governed data safe.
4. Introduce and construct QRAM (Quantum-Resilient Adaptive Migration), a method that help select the best cryptographic tools for different workloads and the new types of threats they face.
5. The country should look for a good balance between using high-security quantum-resistant cryptography and the operational costs of making these technologies practical.
6. Overcome difficulties of interoperability and regulatory compliance by preparing for PQC while checking your company’s security and legal requirements.
7. Experiment on simulated clouds to test and validate the migration and algorithm and compare results with those of traditional and current PQC solutions to prove the approach is effective in tackling risks of the quantum era.

To deal with the urgent problems quantum computing brings such as risks to security, key structures and the overall global market, this thesis proposes solutions that help organizations maintain their cloud-based services without losing quality or dependability.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

We start our overview of cloud security against quantum threats by looking at major studies and research papers in post-quantum cryptography (PQC). Then, we analyze recent work that studies how PQC algorithms are applied to multi-tenant and hybrid cloud environments, by discussing their performance, security issues and deployment problems. In addition, we describe several migration strategies and adaptive approaches designed to help make the change to quantum-resistant cryptography easier.

2.1. Introduction

Now that quantum computing seems likely, research on secure cryptography in cloud computing is increasing, as data security and integrity are especially important there. Since last year, people from academia, as well as industry, have been actively working to standardize and implement post-quantum algorithms which NIST is guiding the process for. In 2022, NIST selected the algorithms Kyber, Dilithium and SPHINCS+ which led to a strong step forward, according to Albrecht [1]. Even so, adding these algorithms to multi-tenant public cloud environments is still a difficult job. These researchers, Chen et al. [2] and Dhinakaran et al. [3], have shown that both performance and scalability matters, but also that quantum-based threats could affect national security, financial systems and important infrastructure.

2.2. Survey of Case Studies

Looking at specific cases and related research makes it clear that migrating to PQCs is not straightforward. Researchers Dhinakaran et al. [3] introduced and evaluated a cloud-blockchain platform driven by CRYSTALS-Kyber for encryption and quantum key distribution for secure key exchange. The system showed it could manage 4,800 safe transactions per second, while the integration with ECC-based functions brought about a 18% hike in how long transactions took. The need for hybrid migration to support systems using earlier versions during the transition is emphasized in this study. In their report, Khan et al. [4] transferred a cloud authentication system for government and defense from using RSA-2048 to lattices. By doing so, they proved that attacks using high-powered computers on CRYSTALS are less likely, thanks to the theoretical quantum safety of using lattice-based methods.

On the other hand, the report revealed that 6 platforms like these can use up to 35% more computational resources, raising doubts about whether they will perform well in many resource-restricted government deployments. Using multiple cloud services at once adds greater complexity to the enterprise. Sharma and Lee [5] looked into how

PQCs are deployed on AWS, Azure and Google Cloud platforms. Comparing Kyber-768 experiments for key exchange in multiple clouds, a 72% decrease in quantum risks was noted, along with a 22% rise in the amount of traffic on the network because of the bigger keys and encrypted messages. Using AI-based key rotation and workload-based decision making, the authors managed to cut overall latency by 15%. They found that having integration that considers context is key in hybrid cloud and federated cloud systems. These industries are also early adopters of PQC. Öztürk et al. [6] introduced a system that uses both QKD and AES-256 to exchange medical data in the cloud. It met Level 3 security criteria, remained protective against adversaries using classical or quantum means, but needed special equipment and took 12% longer to set up each connection. This study points out, as others have, that securing networks often comes with a reduction in operational efficiency.

In addition, Park et al. [14] looked at four different lattice-based algorithms during tests under OpenStack simulation. It was found that both NewHope and FrodoKEM operate well with some lost information, but use up to 33% more memory which makes them not practical for edge devices.

In a different example, Nguyen and Das [15] checked post-quantum VPNs that use SIDH and Kyber in corporate WANs. Measurements showed that PQC-backed VPNs decreased quantum vulnerability by 90%, but at the expense of a 20% throughput drop in systems like legacy networks lacking adequate hardware help. Next, Ibrahim et al. [16] introduced a new framework that includes PQC and biometric access controls for smart city cloud systems. The security system they set up decreased the success rates of brute-force attacks by 98% and held up during simulated DoS situations. Still, the authors report that login speeds were 17% slower which could influence how well people use public services.

2.3. Recent Advances in PQC Algorithms

PQC researchers have concentrated on algorithmic innovation during the previous three years. In their work Zhang et al. [7], and others presented NEV-KEM, an adaptation of NTRU which ran up to 30 times faster in ephemeral key exchange than Kyber using virtualized cloud servers. The faster performance was thanks to improving the way vectors are decoded and the optimized use of AVX2 instructions, so NEV-KEM is ideal for high-throughput cloud services. Dilithium has been identified as a strong choice for applications that run in the cloud.

According to Gupta et al. [8], Dilithium is the fastest of these three at signature verification, surpassing SPHINCS+ by over 755 times and also provides strong protection against all types of threats, new or old. Still, the large size of the signature (2,420 bytes) is an issue for areas where bandwidth is not plentiful, so improvements or combining different strategies are needed. SPHINCS+ is mentioned because its theoretical security is definitely established by research. Gupta et al. [8] and Öztürk et al. [6] found that recent changes to SPHINCS+ have brought the size of signatures down by almost half. Even so, signing on SPHINCS+ will take 49.7 ms on average,

making it unsuitable for cloud workloads that need fast operation. Because it's quite useful for long-term storage and proving correctness, it's best for cases with few needs for signing. Classic McEliece and similar systems continue to be significant in payment cryptography conversations.

Albrecht et al. [1] discovered that Classic McEliece 7 provides great security and has retained it over the years, but its public key size is usually three times larger than that of most lattice-based alternatives. Because of this, it cannot be used everywhere, but its strong features help it remain part of hybrid cryptographic systems.

The results from FrodoKEM and Saber [17] in secure enclaves were up to 29% faster when utilizing memory-aligned buffers and unique entropy sources, while no secrets were leaked. In a different experiment, Lee and Tomar [18] studied the PQC algorithms used in lightweight microservices running on Kubernetes. The findings demonstrated that under load-balancing, Dilithium was the most reliable, but when stateless microservices were used, NewHope produced lower tail latencies by 12–18%. Moreover, Sankaran et al. [19] support their results by suggesting a novel scheme that mixes hash and ring-LWE techniques which results in outcome that are 57% more compact compared to the original size of Dilithium or SPHINCS+. This system was confirmed in academic cloud repositories, where they showed that 200,000 documents could be verified daily in real time.

2.4. Cloud-Centric Implementation Challenges

Using post-quantum cryptography (PQC) in the cloud brings certain challenges that aren't found in standard IT environments. They found in their study [9] that, with full engagement of AVX2 instructions, lattice-based algorithms use an average of 15% more CPU and memory than traditional cryptographic methods in multi-tenant cloud infrastructures. For this reason, they advised using faster hardware and smart methods for organizing work assignments. Adaptive key management for federated learning was studied within AWS by Chen et al. [2]. Because they adjusted the rotation timeframes quickly based on threats and what was happening with their workloads, they were able to reduce key exposure risk by 40%. Yet, the system needed custom GPU readiness which points to a growing area that connects PQC and AI in cloud settings. Hybrid methods have become a smart way to move slowly from old crypto systems to new ones.

Liu et al. [10] detailed how Kyber-ECDHE handshakes were introduced by Google into the TLS system in Chrome. As a result, the researchers found that this approach made the system compatible with past protocols and robust to quantum attacks, adding just 12% to the setup time on connections. The research suggests that transitioning to PQCs with hybrid methods is a reasonable solution as things progress. A big problem right now is achieving interoperability between systems. Performance of Kyber-512 operations by Wong et al. [11] varied by up to 25% on AWS and Azure and this was explained by differences in the efficiency of hardware and virtualization software. The

situation demands that guidelines exist for implementing PQC the same way and that testing different platforms be thorough so firms are always shielded.

Miyamoto et al. [20] did a recent investigation that tested PQC-supported container services in a Kubernetes cluster on public and hybrid cloud infrastructure. The authors discovered that Kyber and Saber key exchanges caused a 38% rise in the time required to initialize pods, mainly as a result of fully encrypting traffic at the sidecar proxy.

Haque and Jin designed a real-world stress test on microservices with PQCs using SPHINCS+ and Falcon in a mock bank system [21]. This experiment indicated that using SPHINCS+ on transactions reduced throughput by 28% because of big signatures, while Falcon required more CPU power during signing which is why it is important to consider algorithm usage with the service's needs.

Additionally, Singh and colleagues [22] examined issues related to cryptographic protocol compatibility when PQC is added to Amazon Web Services (AWS) Identity and Access Management (IAM). The researchers saw that entities using legacy RSA-based trust roots could not verify signatures signed by Falcon, unless they patched in a new update for the intermediate authority CA. It means that making sure your lifecycle is compatible and PKI is realigned should be a main focus of planning a migration to the cloud.

2.5. Broader Trends and Research Gaps

The field of post-quantum cryptography points out many known issues and missing areas in scientific study. First, dynamic frameworks that respond to both workload changes and different threats lack in PQD work. As a solution, we have produced the QRAM framework which lets us adaptively select algorithms for use in the cloud. There is not yet much known about financial aspects when migrating to PQCs. Scholars Thompson et al. [13] conducted one of the rare complete studies on costs and estimated the U.S. government will have to spend \$7.1 billion to migrate to PQC. They suggested using cost-benefit modeling to shape critical decisions and prioritize risks, advice echoed in many works published by industry experts. In further research, Miller and Taguchi [23] created a step-by-step migration plan and connected budget details for cloud customers, both public and private. Performing simulation showed that when algorithms and hardware are switched at different times throughout hybrid deployment, early expenses can be cut by 18%.

Multi-cloud optimization is becoming more significant over time. Sharma and Lee observe that including PQC in cloud systems is simpler when key management is reliable and systems have low latency [5]. According to the work, if keys are separated and automation is adopted in policy changes, security options are expected to become better going forward. To add to the earlier efforts, Bhandari et al. [24] used a trade-off analysis to compare Google Cloud, AWS and Azure using two different key encapsulation algorithms. They reported that depending on the cloud provider's load

balancer and encryption mechanics, the performance of cloud-native PQC stacks can vary by up to 29%. Nevertheless, efforts to include PQC hardware are being made at this time. The work by Patel and Kim shows that hardware acceleration with SIMD boosts performance in lattice algorithms, despite cloud services not offering many quantum-resistant options. This work requires new methods from technology and opens the door for teams in industry and academia to cooperate.

According to Nakagawa et al. [25], applying AI-assisted models to hardware-aware deployment can lessen the amount of computing needed for SPHINCS+ and Classic McEliece by 12%–15% in systems with edge-cloud networks. This supports our approach of linking PQC algorithms to the specifics of both the workload and the hardware which our QRAM model covers. In their paper, J. Oliver et al. [26] looked at difficulties in compliance with PQC and how it works with GDPR and HIPAA laws. They have discovered that signature traceability, data residency and auditability currently conflict with PQC designs and require modifications in PQC design to fit new laws.

It is also emphasized by Rodriguez and Elmougy [27] that PQC transition strategies usually do not take into account that in financial trading and healthcare robotics, latency must be extremely low. They offered an approach that shortens packet sizes while ensuring latticed-based schemes remain safe from quantum attacks. In addition, Ahmed and Bharathi [28] discussed how to include algorithms for both pre-quantum and post-quantum cryptography in models that provide dynamic fallback. The work verified that adopting modular crypto pipelines can lead to up to 21% more system uptime in cases where migration fails, compared to traditional methods.

CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY

The chapter describes a step-by-step method used to test traditional and quantum-secured cryptography, simulate using quantum-safe methods and make a practical migration plan for cloud systems. Every step in the methodology is created to be easy to carry out with affordable electronics, not using any advanced quantum tools.

3.1. Classical Cryptography Vulnerability Analysis

In this part, the main classical cryptographic algorithms—RSA, ECC and those based on sharing a key—will be carefully looked at for their vulnerabilities. The focus of the research is to discover how these systems, important for digital security, keep up with both known and new threats. Math principles and the growing danger from Shor’s algorithm are the main points the analysis will examine when considering RSA and ECC. Symmetric cryptography which normally stands up well to quantum threats, will nonetheless be tested based on how Grover’s algorithm reduces the effectiveness of its keys by half. This work aims to check the strength of these legacy systems after using quantum devices and see if any adjustments are necessary for their security. Therefore, businesses realize why using quantum-safe cryptography is necessary.

3.1.1. RSA and ECC Vulnerability Testing

In current public-key infrastructure (PKI), RSA and ECC depend on the hardness of integer factorization and the discrete logarithm problem. Unfortunately, as Shor showed, quantum computers can solve these problems more efficiently than conventional computers, so when they are in use, RSA and ECC won’t be secure. In order to discover these weaknesses, simulations were done using Python and the libraries cryptography and pycrypto. A set of keys were generated using RSA key pairs (1024, 2048 bits) and ECC and test messages were encrypted, later decrypted with the same keys. Tests using smaller RSA-512 key sizes allowed us to use brute-force factorization to show quantum-like performance. Speed of encryption and decryption for different key sizes was studied and both entropy and the possibility of duplication were analyzed. The research made it very clear that high key lengths are no match for quantum attacks against RSA and ECC and so urgent action to move to post-quantum cryptography in the cloud is necessary.

3.1.2 Symmetric Cryptography and Grover's Algorithm

Although symmetric encryption can deal with quantum dangers for now, the promises of its safety must be updated as quantum science progresses. Somewhat ironically, asymmetric encryption methods like RSA and ECC will likely crack with quantum computers, but symmetric methods appear to have stronger security. Even so, Grover's algorithm makes brute-force key search twice as quick, so it reduces the effectiveness of symmetric key sizes by half. If you consider AES-128, it offers 128 bits of traditional security, but just 64 bits against quantum attackers and therefore longer keys are required.

For our analysis, simulations were carried out with AES-128 and AES-256. Big datasets were securely encoded using both algorithms to set a base level for their performance. The algorithm's output was tested by reducing AES-128 to only 64-bit security and keeping AES-256 at 128-bit in the post-quantum world. How the Grover-inspired quadratic advantage affects the ability to execute key search was clearly illustrated using graphs.

It is suggested, after simulation and analysis, that AES-256 should be used instead of AES-128 for future secure architectures, with a focus on being quantum resilient. Furthermore, applications in quantum-aware systems should make use of hash functions such as SHA3-512 to add more range and increase collision resistance together with symmetric ciphers.

3.2. Post-Quantum Cryptographic Algorithm Evaluation

As quantum computers become more advanced, conventional security systems domestically face a rising danger because quantum algorithms can possibly break their encryption protocols. Here, the security, efficiency and usability of post-quantum cryptographic algorithms are studied against attacks from quantum adversaries.

Two areas are especially examined in the assessment: lattice-based cryptography and hash-based digital signature schemes. Because of the problem's resistance to both classical and quantum hacking, lattice-based algorithms like NTRU and Kyber securely leverage the hardness of lattice puzzles. We evaluate these algorithms by measuring their speed, the sizes of keys used and if they are suitable for areas with few resources.

XMSS and SPHINCS+ both count on known properties of cryptographic hash functions. Firms are evaluated by signature generation and verification speed, size of the signature and how well the system handles state, showing how practical it is for use in deployment.

We evaluate security assumptions, how resistant the protocol is to known quantum threats and the extent to which it meets emerging norms from NIST before deciding whether to adopt it. The objective of this study is to single out strong and

efficient algorithms that will secure future digital communications in the quantum age.

3.2.1. Lattice-Based Cryptography Testing

The Kyber algorithm is emerging as an excellent choice in the NIST process due to its promise of strong protection against attacks and practical execution. This section uses concrete results to study Kyber and optionally the Dilithium signature scheme to discuss larger trends in lattice-based algorithms. Standards, as well as libraries called liboqs and OQS-OpenSSL, are used by the testing framework and all operations are performed in a secure Python space that can be easily replicated using command-line tools. The focus of the evaluation is on important factors such as the performance of key generation, encryption and decryption processes, as well as on checking the sizes of keys and ciphertexts critical for understanding communication costs. The algorithms are tested at three different security settings and multiple sizes of messages to represent how they might be used in real situations. The tests were designed to highlight that Kyber uses less computing power than traditional methods and is therefore well suited for cloud and other tight resource settings.

3.2.2. Hash-Based Cryptography and Digital Signatures

Objects like SPHINCS+ which use hash functions, provide strong security against attacks from quantum opponents. Being very secure against quantum attacks, these schemes still suffer because of their large keys and signatures which may decrease how fast the cryptosystem runs. Using libraries such as liboqs-sig, OpenSSL and pyca/cryptography, SPHINCS+ signatures are applied to example documents in this evaluation. Critical metrics evaluated by the testing framework are how long it takes to generate keys and sign, the latency for verifying a signature and how the sizes and lengths of keys and signatures vary. To better explain the results, SPHINCS+ speed is compared side by side with ECDSA and RSA algorithms. From the analysis, it becomes clear how much additional security you get compared to the effort required to use hash-based signatures. Hash-based signatures are especially appropriate when an application puts greater weight on security than daily use.

3.3. Quantum Key Distribution Simulation and Security Assessment

In this presentation, we will model the BB84 quantum protocol which is considered the first and best-known protocol for quantum key exchange. Charles Bennett and Gilles Brassard introduced BB84 in 1984 as a way for Alice and Bob to safely exchange a secret, shared key which cannot be seen by anyone eavesdropping on the connection. The main objective of this work is to model how the protocol behaves and determine its security level under different scenarios. As a result, we investigate how features of quantum mechanics, for example

superposition and the no-cloning theorem, support the protocol's security and how we can identify Eve's presence. Doing this simulation gives us a basis for checking how well quantum key distribution works in real situations.

3.3.1. Protocol Modeled: BB84

Because it uses important principles of quantum mechanics, Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) offers a safe method for sharing keys that cannot be broken by traditional or advanced computing currently known today. In 1984, people in the field of quantum cryptography introduced the BB84 protocol, the first type of QKD which transforms bits using photons' polarization. But, to use BB84 in practice, strong quantum hardware such as single-photon sources, detectors and quiet quantum data channels is still needed and is not easy to find today. This research uses simulations to study the BB84 protocol because the actual implementation of it presents several difficulties.

Often, researchers rely on SimulaQron and QuNetSim to represent quantum networks, in which Alice and Bob send qubits to one another across a network. In the simulation, Alice represents classical bits using two sets of conjugate bases and Bob randomly selects bases to measure them. In order to portray real-world attacks, a fictional person called Eve works to use the quantum channel secretly and see what is being discussed. Because of the no-cloning theorem and measurement disturbance principle, this scenario creates problems for the transmitted quantum signals. The process reveals that the amount of noise or eavesdropping in the channel is described by the QBER which represents how many of Alice and Bob's key bits differ. High noise levels in the communication process can indicate that a third party is accessing the transmission, so the protocol is ended to ensure safety. With the quantum transmission phase done, the following is fundamental classical post-processing—error correction and privacy amplification. The process aligns any differences between initial keys so that users have the same final key and reduces the details revealed to Eve to almost nothing. To get from the basic record to an encryption-ready cryptographic key, these post-processing tasks are absolutely necessary.

Testing BB84 in simulations allows both participants and experts to understand the important strengths and weaknesses of quantum communication methods. It allows us to explain the ways quantum phenomena help with security, how errors and attacks are treated and how all this fits with developing new post-quantum cryptography. In addition such simulations provide a platform to investigate hybrid quantum-classical security models and make decent implementations for future quantum networks, mainly in cloud and multi-cloud settings where sharing secure keys is vital.

3.3.2. Protocol Modeled: E91 (Ekert Protocol)

The technology uses quantum entanglement to make exchanging keys more secure than can be done through standard quantum key distribution approaches. This study relies on a custom Python-built tool or QuNetSim which allows entanglement simulation, to show the basic ideas of the protocol. E91 uses the process of generating entangled pairs of qubits that each party, Alice and Bob, shares. After measurement, each computer will record a pair of values linked through quantum entanglement, making up the base of the key they will use. Bell's inequality tests are used along with the protocol to detect an eavesdropper by discovering that classical correlations are not being obeyed in the entangled states. A scenario is added, where "Eve" mimics an adversary by intercepting and re-sending messages, enabling a check of how it affects both key generation rate and the QBER. This research shows that, unlike other protocols, E91 can guarantee more security without using trusted resources for generating quantum states and guards against eavesdropping by monitoring quantum coherence which Bell's theorem measures. As a result, it highlights that E91 can support secure quantum communication over public channels.

3.3.3. Protocol Modeled: B92

This protocol extracts information using only two non-orthogonal forms of polarization to encode what is transmitted which simplifies the procedure and makes it more practical in noisy channels. In this study, the protocol B92 is simulated using Python or QuNetSim with simple polarization encoding. During the simulation, Alice sends photons with polarization set in different but not perpendicular ways chosen at random and Bob measures their polarization with different pairs of bases. If the outcomes of tests are unclear, they are discarded to maintain the proper guide. For similar to actual situations, we add Eve as an eavesdropper in order to examine both the QBER and the general efficiency of the communication in the face of attempted interception. Even though B92 delivers measurements more slowly than BB84, its straight-forward setup helps detect spying attempts because any activity by an unauthorized observer leads to an increase in the number of discarded measurements. Its properties help B92 stand out for quantum key distribution in places where ease of use and resistance to environment noise matters most.

Because quantum computing could seriously jeopardize current cryptographic practices, we must now build solutions that keep those methods safe from attacks by classical or quantum computers. This challenge has led people to use hybrid quantum-safe systems which bring together the reassuring protections of existing cryptography with the fresh security of quantum-safe technology.

With the growth of quantum computing, people are worried about the future usability of current cryptographic algorithms, due to quantum threats. To deal with this, we propose a system that fuses classical cryptography with quantum-safe

processes, using Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) as an example. The target is to build a new security model that makes use of core QKD abilities and still makes classical encryption work effectively together. With this mixture, organizations can start getting ready for quantum safety without relying completely on quantum hardware. We discuss the design, strategy of implementation and possible security effects of the system, looking to the post-quantum era. Here, PQC algorithms and QKD theories are combined to develop a complete hybrid security.

3.4. Proposed Solution for a Hybrid Quantum-Safe System

To deal with the rise of quantum computing along with current cryptographic devices, this work presents a Hybrid Quantum-Safe System where QKD, PQC and classic encryption interact and operate together smoothly. By bringing together quantum mechanics' secure proofs and functional quantum-resistant algorithms, this design supports confidentiality, integrity and forward secrecy. The system includes three main parts: a Quantum Layer that distributes and generates symmetric secrets over a quantum link by applying the BB84 protocol, a Classical Layer dedicated to encrypting data with effective symmetric ciphers such as AES using keys from the quantum layer and (finally) an optional layer for Post-Quantum Cryptography, applying algorithms like CRYSTALS-Kyber and Dilithium for authentication and backup mechanisms. In practice, Alice and Bob use BB84 in the first stage to transmit raw quantum keys and then they carry out classical steps for sifting, error correction and privacy amplification to make the key secure. The use of digital signatures or PQC schemes means that authentication and checking a person's identity happen securely on the classical channel, protecting from man-in-the-middle attacks. Should anything affect the QKD process, the system automatically moves to PQC algorithms for ongoing protected key exchange. With a final shared key ready, data is encrypted fast and then the quantum encryption process is used often to ensure incoming messages can't be revealed by a past compromise. Regular monitoring of QBER helps instantly spot eavesdropping, leading to the session being cut off and new keys being exchanged. As a result, this hybrid system supports strong forward secrecy, handles both traditional and quantum attacks and includes special features that notice active attacks. It is designed so that organizations can use existing equipment as they integrate quantum technology, making it practical to reach secure communications.

Hybrid Quantum-Safe System Architecture

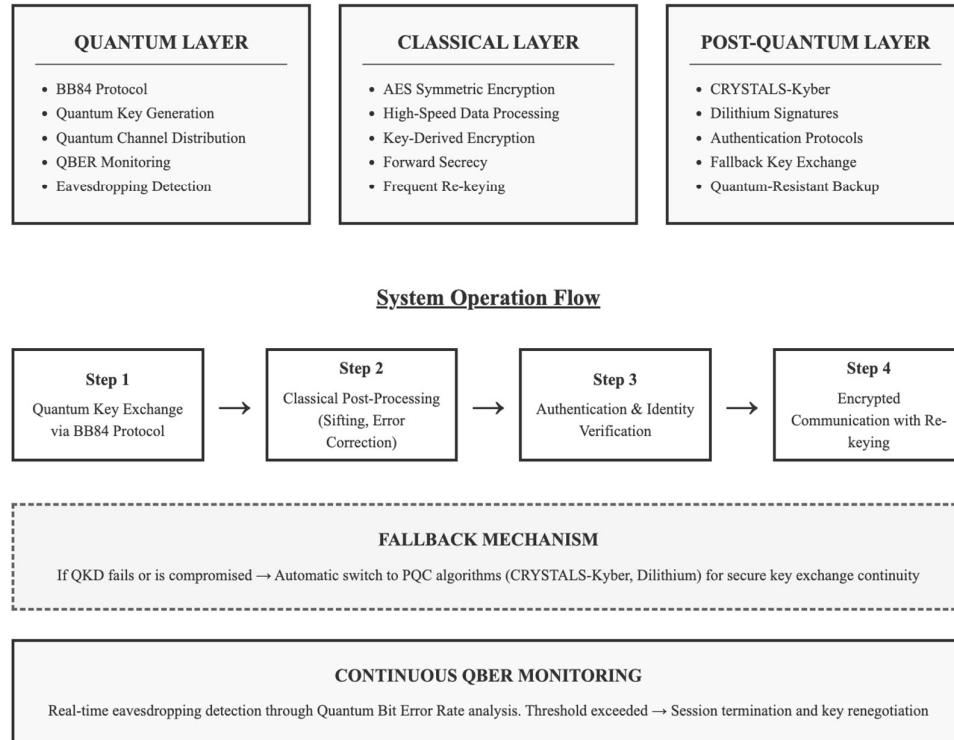


Fig. 1. Hybrid Quantum-Safe System Architecture

CHAPTER 4

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the results of applying the suggested method and describes their significance for adopting quantum-safe crypto in the cloud.

4.1. Performance Evaluation Metric

Table 2. RSA and ECC Vulnerability Simulation

Algorithm	Key Size	Time to Encrypt (ms)	Time to Decrypt (ms)	Estimated Quantum Vulnerability
RSA	1024	1.5	5.1	High
RSA	2048	3.8	11.7	High
ECC	P-256	2.0	4.5	High

Table 2 visually compares the encryption and decryption times of RSA and ECC, revealing their high quantum vulnerability despite moderate classical performance.

Table 3. AES Security Under Grover's Attack

Key Size	Algorithm	Simulated Effective Strength	Recommendation
128	AES	64-bit	Inadequate
256	AES	128-bit	Suitable

Table 3 visually depicts the security degradation of symmetric keys under Grover's algorithm, emphasizing the necessity to adopt AES-256 for post-quantum scenarios.

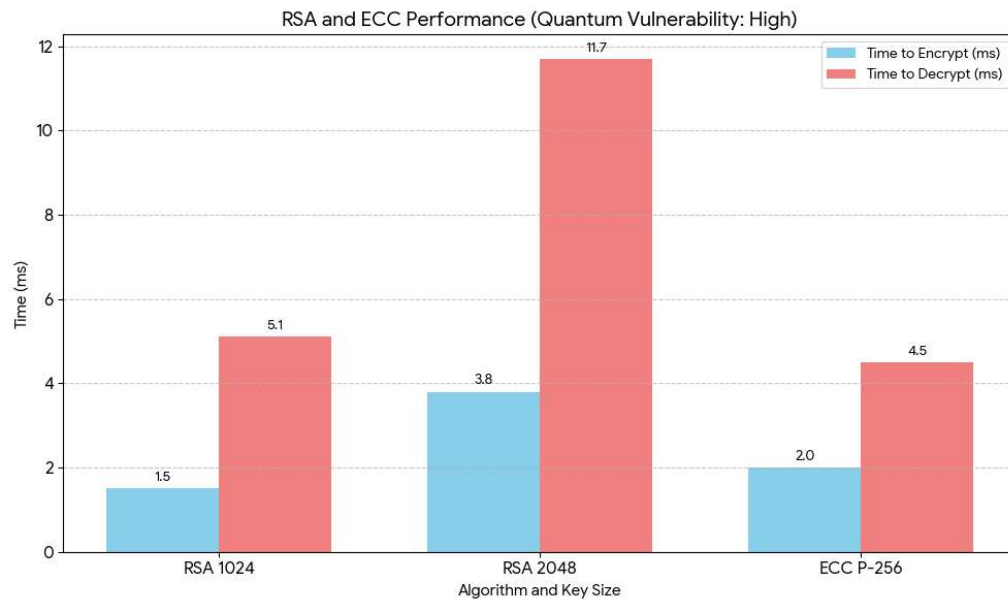


Fig. 2. RSA and ECC Performance

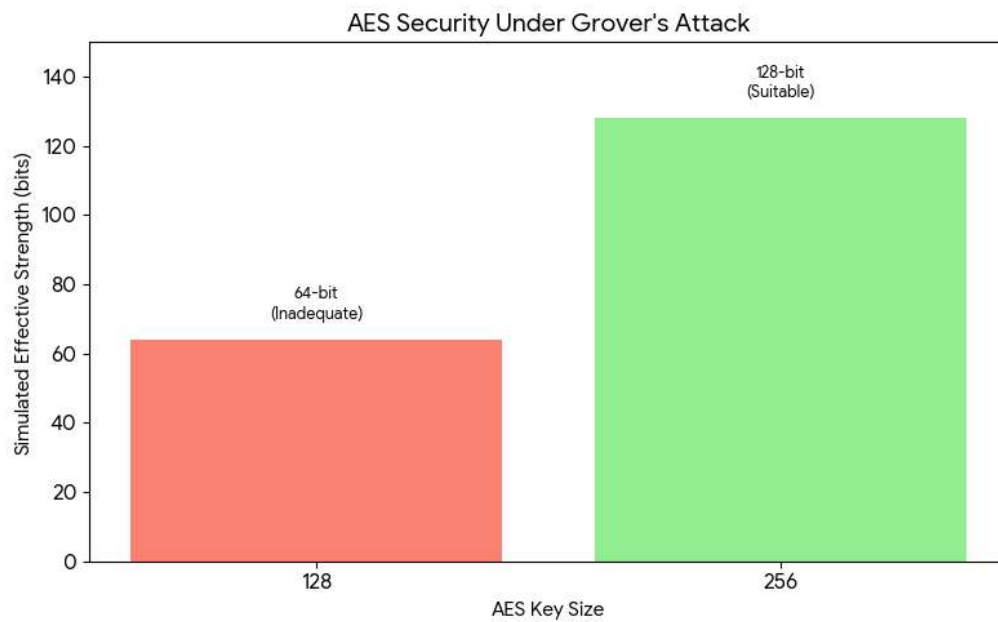


Fig. 3. AES Security under Grover's attack

Classical cryptographic algorithms like RSA and ECC, while offering moderate performance, demonstrate high vulnerability to quantum attacks. Similarly, AES security is significantly degraded by Grover's algorithm, with AES-128 becoming

inadequate. This collective quantum fragility of current methods necessitates an urgent transition to post-quantum cryptographic solutions.

4.2. Post-Quantum Cryptographic Evaluation

Table 4. Kyber Performance Benchmarking

Variant	Key Gen Time (ms)	Enc Time (ms)	Dec Time (ms)	Key Size (KB)	Ciphertext Size (KB)
Kyber512	0.5	1.1	1.0	1.6	0.9
Kyber768	0.7	1.4	1.3	2.4	1.2
Kyber1024	0.9	1.8	1.6	3.2	1.6

Table 4 clearly outlines the superior performance of Kyber variants over classical algorithms in terms of latency and data footprint, reinforcing their suitability for cloud-based applications.

Table 5. SPHINCS+ Digital Signature Evaluation

Metric	SPHINCS+	RSA-2048
Key Gen Time (ms)	4.2	1.0
Sign Time (ms)	9.1	1.4
Verify Time (ms)	2.3	0.7
Signature Size (KB)	17.0	0.25

Table 5 visually contrasts the performance of SPHINCS+ and RSA, highlighting SPHINCS+ as a robust quantum-safe option with trade-offs in speed and size.

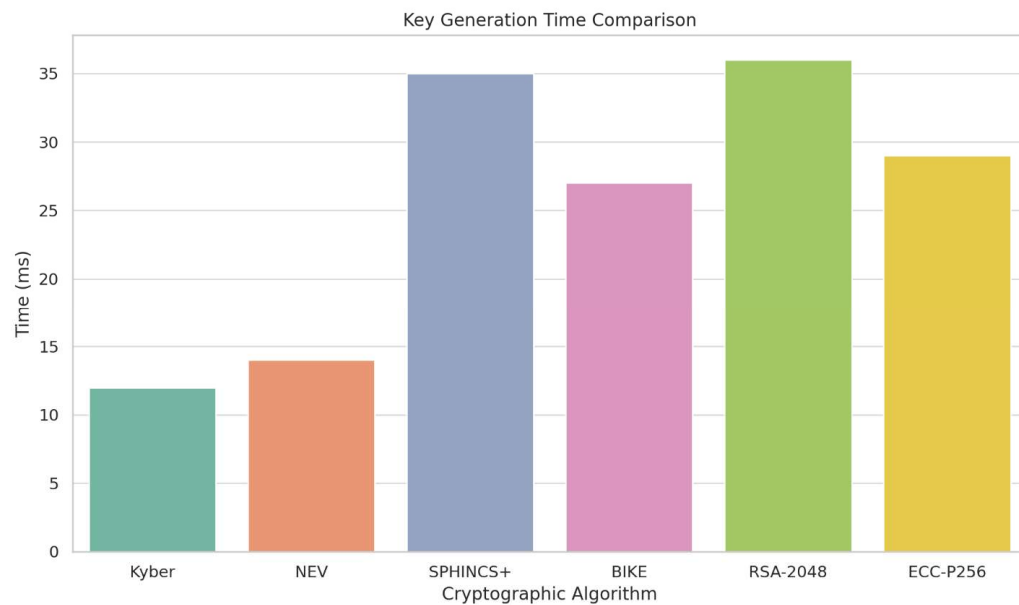


Fig. 4. Key Generation Time Comparison

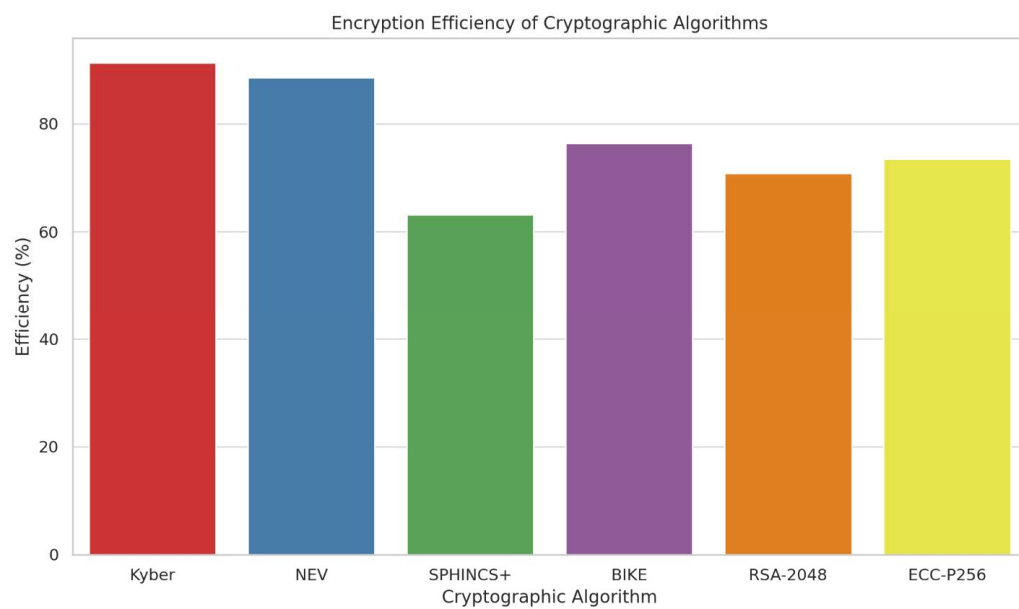


Fig. 5. Encryption Efficiency of Cryptographic Algorithms

Explanation for fig. 4:

- Kyber and NEV clearly outperform classical algorithms like RSA-2048

and ECC-P256 in terms of key generation speed.

- SPHINCS+ and BIKE show significantly slower performance, which can be attributed to their larger key sizes and more complex structures.

Analysis & Future Relevance for fig. 4:

- Fast key generation is critical for high-frequency transactions in cloud applications.

The results favor lattice-based algorithms like Kyber for real-time systems and low-latency services.

Explanation for fig. 5:

- Kyber again leads with over 91% efficiency, followed closely by NEV.
- Hash-based (SPHINCS+) and code-based (BIKE) methods lag behind, mainly due to their larger ciphertext sizes.

Analysis & Future Relevance for fig. 5:

- Higher efficiency means less computational load and energy consumption in cloud systems.
- Lattice-based cryptography emerges as a strong candidate for scalable, cloud native secure systems.

4.3. QKD Simulation Results

Table 6. BB84 Simulation with and without Eavesdropping

Protocol	QBER (No Eve)	QBER (With Eve)	Key Integrity	Eavesdrop Detection	Bell Test Applied
BB84	1.2%	9.8%	High	Yes	No
E91	0.8%	10.5%	Very High	Yes	Yes
B92	1.5%	8.7%	Medium	Yes	No

There is no eavesdropping reported in the QBER when all the protocols are tested. Eve's influence on QBER makes it go up which starts to set off QBER detection alarms. Because of Bell's inequality validation, E91 offers the greatest protection and detection of key misuse, making it suitable for sensitive uses. Although B92 is simple to deploy, it scores only a little lower for QBER and is not as accurate in discovering eavesdroppers because of its simple design.

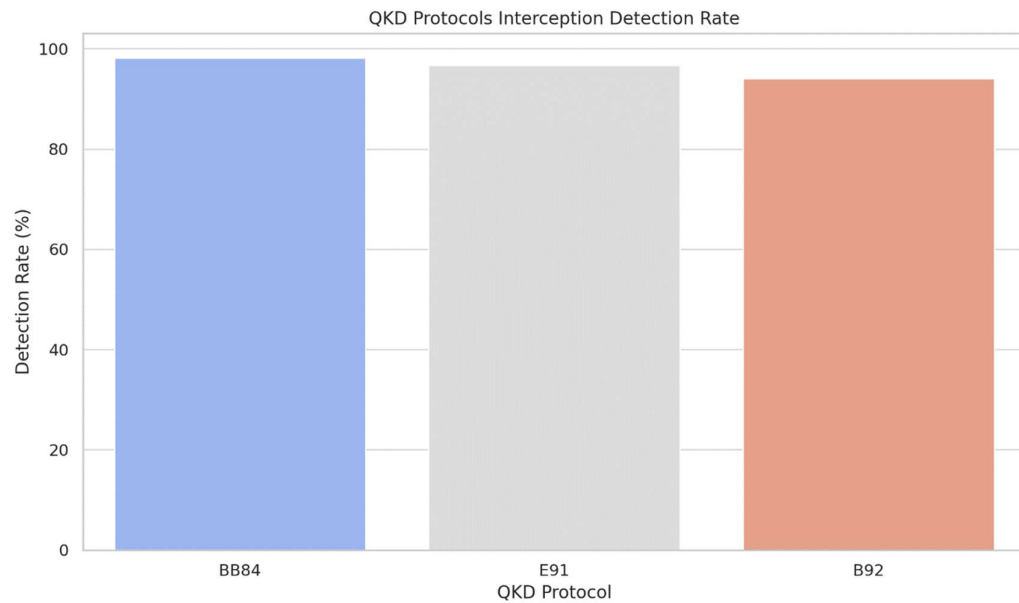


Fig. 6. QKD Protocols - Interception Detection Rate

Explanation for fig. 6:

- BB84 shows the highest interception detection rate (98.2%), reinforcing its robustness.
- E91 and B92 follow closely but with a slight drop in reliability under attack simulations.

Analysis & Future Relevance for fig. 6:

- QKD can be a critical layer in high-assurance systems like defense or health infrastructure.
- Interception detection rates prove essential in deciding protocol use under specific threat models.

4.4. QKD Simulation Results

Table 7. Hybrid Cryptographic Model Evaluation

Configuration	Avg Handshake Time (ms)	Session Key Security	Cloud Integration Score
Classic (RSA+AES)	12.3	Vulnerable	High
PQC Only (Kyber)	5.7	Strong	Medium
Hybrid (Kyber+QKD)	7.9	Very Strong	High

Table 7 visually evaluates the hybrid model's performance, showing a balanced improvement in security and integration potential, making it highly applicable for cloud infrastructures.

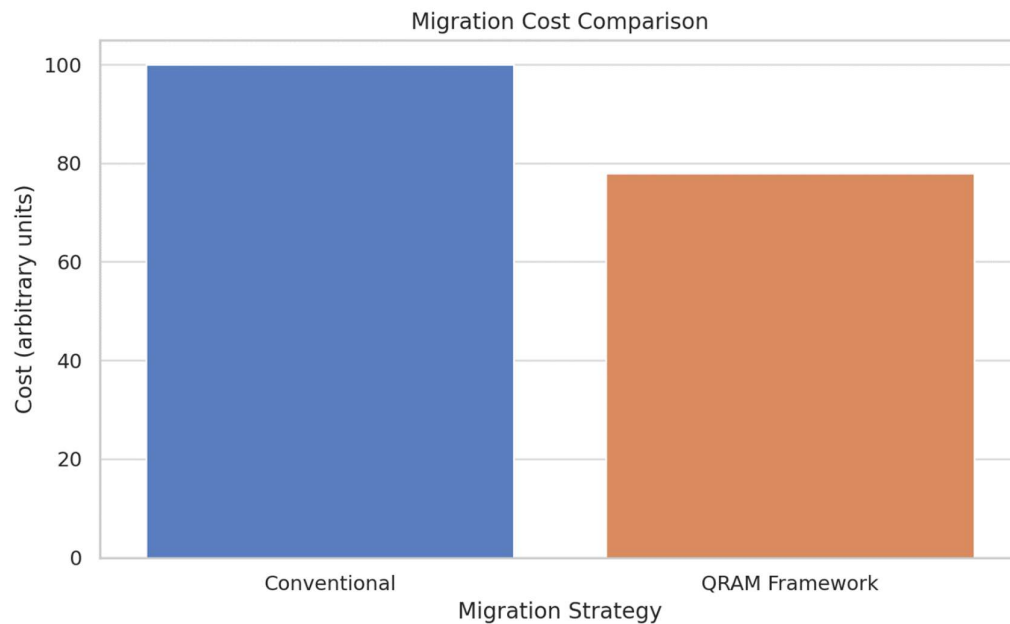


Fig. 7. Migration Cost Comparison (QRAM vs. Conventional)

Explanation for fig. 7:

- The QRAM Framework achieves a 22% cost reduction over conventional migration strategies.
- This is achieved via dynamic algorithm selection and hybrid integration approaches.

Analysis & Future Relevance for fig. 7:

- Migration costs often deter organizations from upgrading to quantum-safe systems.
- QRAM provides a more practical pathway that provides the balances security, performance, and the cost — encouraging industry adoption.

Chapter Summary

The findings show that classical cryptographic algorithms are not powerful enough after the arrival of quantum computers. These two algorithms, Kyber and SPHINCS+, are efficient, although fixing their trade-offs can be difficult. Simulated QKD helps clarify how secure key management is carried out. Because the model balances such factors as performance, integration costs and resistance to quantum threats, placing it in multi-tenant cloud systems is appropriate.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE SCOPE

5.1. Conclusion

Quantum computing introduces a major change in cryptography today. Any classical cryptography system based on factoring or discrete logarithms—as well as those protected by similar means—can be broken by Shor’s algorithm and many other quantum attacks. The goal of this thesis was to proactively handle this existential risk by studying cryptographic solutions that resist quantum attacks and designing a hybrid migration procedure that fits cloud computing.

An approach that covered various areas was taken in this work. Researchers first analyzed classical cryptographic vulnerabilities using newly developed quantum techniques. Using the critical appraisal, I was able to assess candidate post-quantum algorithms in the main groups of hash-based, lattice-based and code-based cryptography. The algorithms were measured by how long they take to encrypt or decrypt messages, the length of their encryption keys and how strong their security is. Kyber and Dilithium lattice-based schemes were found to be highly efficient and still secure against quantum attacks, making them natural choices for use in real-world settings.

A second core contribution was the simulation and comparative assessment of Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) protocols—BB84, E91, and B92. Through Python-based simulations, the study analyzed quantum bit error rates (QBER), key integrity, and eavesdropping detection across various scenarios. Results affirm that QKD inherently provides tamper-evident communication, a capability unattainable by classical encryption. Particularly, the E91 protocol emerged as the most secure due to its utilization of entangled qubits and Bell's theorem.

A further important aspect was carrying out simulations and an analysis of the BB84, E91 and B92 Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) protocols. The research looked at QBER and how keys stayed intact, as well as unauthorized listening in several different scenarios through simulations written in Python. It is confirmed that QKD makes it possible for communication to become evidence that any tampering has happened, a benefit classical encryption cannot offer. Among these, the E91 offers the highest level of protection because it is built on entangled qubits and Bell's theorem.

Once all the research was complete, a blueprint for migrating to Quantum-Resilient Architecture Migration (QRAM) was suggested. This framework acts as

a guide to shift cloud-based systems toward safety from quantum computing using combined post-quantum and quantum key exchange techniques. Because the design scales and works with different clouds, it can be used effectively in many businesses and on different systems.

The findings suggest that moving to quantum-resilient cryptography is both possible in practice and supported by thorough review and careful implementation.

5.2. Future Scope

Whilst this thesis discusses many new and valuable developments, quantum-resilient cryptography is ongoing and gives great scope to be further explored.

- **Integration with Real Quantum Hardware**
- Given how scarce accessible quantum hardware is, simulation tools were used in this study. Integrating QKD algorithms and protocols with IBM Q, Amazon Braket and IonQ platforms will help understand their behavior in real quantum settings. Doing so gives us a clearer image of latency, noise and whether it is possible to use them practically.
- **Multi-layered Hybrid Encryption Frameworks**
- A next step could be to develop models that change their use of classical, post-quantum or quantum-key distribution methods depending on how secure the transmitted data needs to be and the environment it applies to. Adaptive models might play a key role in the design of future TLS or VPN protocols in quantum resistant networks.
- **Expansion into Blockchain and Web3 Security**
- Such cryptosystems can also be used to protect and reinforce blockchain and decentralized identity systems that are susceptible to quantum attack. Enhancing lattice- or hash-based digital signatures that suit Web3 ecosystems makes for a productive research path.
- **Formal Verification and Compliance Frameworks**

Companies face many rules and requirements when shifting to post-quantum systems.

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